



Mavs move to 3-1 in women's soccer

UNO defeated Missouri Southern 4-1 but dropped a road game this weekend.

SPORTS
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gateway

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA SINCE 1913

UNO keeps early season victories going on road

The Mavericks dominated Missouri Southern 40-21 for their first MIAA road win.

SPORTS
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VOLUME 08 | ISSUE 08

TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

Testimony continues with police on stand

Officers recount night of Brittany Williams' slaying

SCOTT STEWART
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Several Omaha police officers took the stand Thursday in the first-degree murder trial of Kyle Bormann.

Bormann, 20, is accused of shooting UNO pre-nursing student Brittany Williams with a high-powered rifle on the night of Jan. 20 in the drive-through lane of a Kentucky Fried Chicken/Long John Silvers restaurant in the Florence neighborhood.

Thursday's testimony focused on the incidents leading up to and immediately following Bormann's arrest. In particular, both the prosecution and defense focused on a conversation among Bormann and officers Russell Petersen and Oscar Dieguez that took place while Bormann was awaiting transportation to Omaha police headquarters for questioning.

"He asked me if he could talk to me and tell me what was going on," Petersen told the jury. Petersen initially instructed Bormann to "sit back and relax," as patrol officers are not trained to question suspects in homicide investigations.

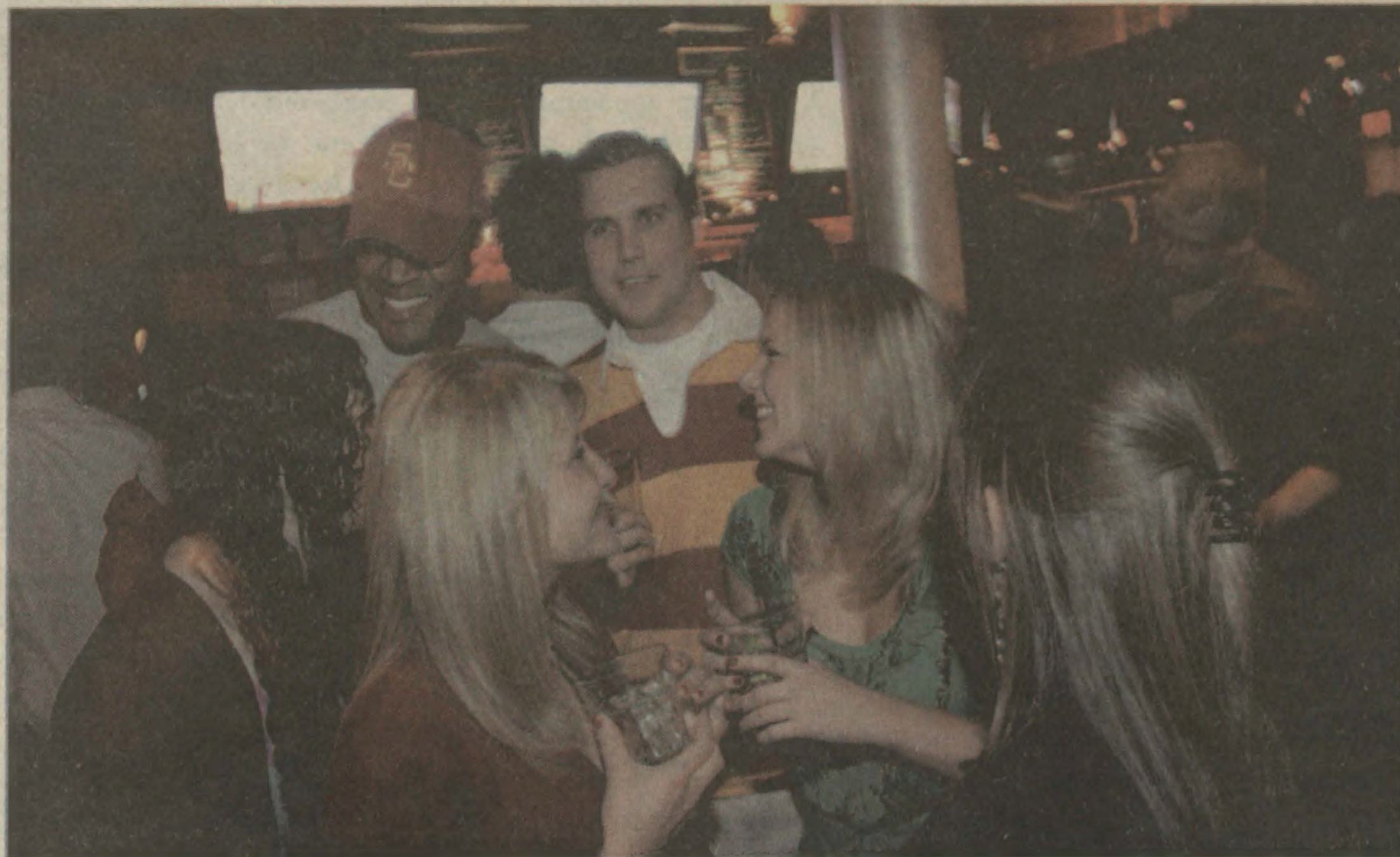
In cross examination, Petersen said he told Bormann to sit back twice but Bormann made repeated efforts to initiate conversation by leaning forward in the backseat of the police cruiser occupied by the two of them.

Listening from outside the vehicle through an open window, Dieguez also told Bormann that he was under arrest, was not being asked any questions and should sit back.

Dieguez got frustrated with Bormann's efforts to initiate conversation and eventually told

SEE TRIAL: PAGE 9

University begins to charge alcohol violators for required diversion class



Students caught with alcohol on campus or with other alcohol-related violations will now be required to pay \$100 for the often mandatory Alcohol Education 101 class. (LORI SHEPLER/LOS ANGELES TIMES/LATWP)

SCOTT STEWART
EDITOR IN CHIEF

UNO has started charging students to participate in alcohol education programs primarily geared to campus alcohol policy violators, university officials said last week.

Beginning this month, students will now be required to pay \$100 to enroll in Alcohol Education 101, the diversion course typically required of first-time offenders. The follow-up course for repeat offenders, Alcohol Education 201, will cost \$200.

"I equate paying for the class to be similar to speed limits," said Marcia Adler, director of Student Health Services. "I think \$100 is a good reality check."

The decision to start charging for the course came late last spring, said Nate Bock, coordinator of Alcohol and Other Drug Education. Kent Lavene, UNO's judicial officer, said the decision

came after university officials attended a workshop and realized that charging for the courses was a standard practice at other institutions, including those within the University of Nebraska System.

"We want to use standard practices," Bock said.

The university is not the only institution that requires violators to pay for educational programs. Charging for court-ordered diversion courses is common in the community.

The National Safety Council's Greater Omaha Chapter, for instance, offers an eight-hour alcohol education and minor in possession class for \$79 and a 10-hour first-offense driving under the influence course for \$169, according to its Web site, safenebraska.org. The council also runs traffic ticket dismissal courses, charging \$89 for the four-hour and \$199 for the eight-hour programs for Douglas County residents.

According to UNL Health

Education's Web site, health.unl.edu, the class for first-time alcohol violators at UNL, Alcohol Skills Training Program, costs \$85. The class for second-time offenders or serious first-time offenders, Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students, costs \$200.

UNK's Counseling Care division's Web site lists alcohol education and diversion classes as costing \$75 per class, compared with an average between \$80 and \$100 in the local community.

Calls to both UNL Health Education and UNK Counseling Care were not immediately returned.

Asking offenders to pay for UNO's alcohol education programs help to provide a "little more equity" in terms of student fee money available for other programs, Adler said. It also doesn't address all the costs associated with alcohol violations, including the salaries of professional counselors, the price

SEE ALCOHOL: PAGE 2

ACT scores on rise, but some still unprepared

MARK PATEL
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

ACT scores in Nebraska are rising and continue to be above the national average, yet only 27 percent of high school graduates are prepared for freshman college classes, according to a recent study.

College readiness, as calculated by the ACT, is based on whether students meet the benchmark scores for English, math, reading and science, which are the minimum scores needed on an ACT subject test to indicate a 50 percent chance of obtaining a 'B' or higher in the corresponding college class.

Using these standards, the ACT found that "less than 30 percent of our students are fully prepared for freshman courses," said Barbara McCuen, research coordinator for the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

More UNO students meet the readiness benchmarks than the average for the state. This year's average ACT score at UNO — 23, on the ACT range from 0 to 36 — is the highest in the last 10 years, said Linda Mannering, director of institutional research.

Nebraska as a whole also improved and scored an average of 22.1, compared with the national average of 21.1. McCuen believes Nebraska's culture is the reason for the good performance.

"We have a very fine work ethic in the Midwest," McCuen explained. "I think school has a lot to do with the ethic of working, and so in the Midwest, you find that children work at their schoolwork similar to the parents working at their job."

Another reason for higher than average scores is that Nebraskans

SEE ACT: PAGE 4

JuicyCampus adds UNO to raunchy online gossip forums

JAMIE BELL
STAFF WRITER

With the explosive popularity of networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook, campus life is becoming constantly more interconnected. Students can view what their friends are currently up to, send them messages, and leave comments on both these sites — but not anonymously.

Another Web site, however, allows users to post without revealing their identities and is quickly gaining notoriety on college campuses across the nation.

The site, JuicyCampus.com, is a digital forum designed to dish

the dirt on campus, with categories ranging from "sorority sluts" to "what professor would you sleep with?" All posts are completely anonymous and uncensored, leaving the line between fact and fiction up to the users to distinguish.

Founder and CEO Matt Ivester said that the goal of JuicyCampus is to be a student-dominated site. "JuicyCampus is a place where students can discuss the topics that interest them most, in the manner they deem most appropriate," he said. "It's a great place to find all the latest gossip from their campus."

JuicyCampus relaunched its Web site earlier this month,

making almost 300 universities and colleges available to gossip about — including the University of Nebraska at Omaha. As of Sept. 19, there had only been two posts on the UNO portion of the site — one about a leprechaun and one about a female who does not attend the school.

For college students, the freedom to post anonymously seems to lead to a forum that is filled with conversations about drugs, alcohol and sex. Jody Keisner, a UNO English professor, characterized the Web site as offensive in these regards.

"JuicyCampus.com is essentially an online bathroom

stall where students scrawl sexual messages," Keisner said.

UNO sophomore Tanner Jones said that the site had some positive attributes, such as utilizing freedom of expression and letting students talk about the topics that interested them.

The result, however, is that it is focused almost entirely on promiscuity, sex, parties and "other things that prove our social decay," Jones said.

The key problem with the Web site, both Jones and Keisner said, is that anyone and everyone can post lies about any topic of their choosing.

SEE JUICY: PAGE 4



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FROM **ALCOHOL**: PAGE 1

of staff training or the burden on Campus Security's budget.

Junior Laurie Welch, a sociology and speech communication student, said charging for the class — or requiring it all — isn't equitable for some students caught violating campus alcohol policies.

Welch was caught with alcohol in Scott Village on Jan. 1, after her roommates and her had a noise complaint made against them. Although she was 21 and was only having a glass of wine to celebrate the new year, she was required to take Alcohol 101.

"I really didn't find it helpful to me," Welch said. "I can see where the class can be effective [for people with alcohol problems], but paying for it is ridiculous."

The \$100 charge for a first offense might be a lot of money for some college students, and for students like her, it would be like "paying someone to slap you in the face," Welch said.

First-time offenders of UNO's alcohol policies, Lavene said, are typically given a written warning, required to take Alcohol 101 and, if they're under the age of 21, a letter is sent to their parents or guardians.

After a second offence, students are typically placed on disciplinary probation, Lavene said. Students are also typically required to complete Alcohol 201 and their parents or guardians will be notified if they're under the age of 21.

"In the past," Lavene said, "we do not have that many people who are repeating the second time."

A third offense usually means a suspension of at least a semester, often more, Lavene said.

Bock said that Alcohol 101 and Marijuana 101 — the corresponding program for controlled substance policy violators — saw 107 students complete the program and 23 students not finish it last year. The consequences for not finishing the program could include suspension and removal from campus residences, although the decision to evict a resident is ultimately that of the individual housing programs.

In addition to the 130 students attempting Alcohol 101, only three or four students completed Alcohol 201. The year before, Bock said, about 150 students completed Alcohol 101 and a corresponding small number completed Alcohol 201. There are no numbers available yet for this year.

Lavene added that controlled substances violations are viewed as more serious offenses, so students living on campus who are caught with marijuana or another other illegal drugs would likely be evicted on a first offense. Criminal prosecution is also possible.

UNO's Student Code of Conduct, as it appears in the 2008-09 university catalog, lists several acts of misconduct by individual students or student organizations that could result in sanctions:

— "Unauthorized use, possession, manufacture, distribution or sale of alcohol on university premises or at university activities, or in university supplied vehicles;"

— "Storing in a locker, desk, vehicle or other place on university-owned or controlled property any unauthorized controlled substances, drug paraphernalia or alcohol;"

— "Use of alcohol off university premises that adversely affects student's academic performance or safety or the safety of others;"

— "Violation of any state or federal law relating to the unauthorized use, possession, manufacture, distribution or sale of alcohol, controlled substances or drug paraphernalia," including providing alcohol to a minor; or

— "Being under the influence of alcohol or any illegal drug or controlled substance on university

premises or at university-sponsored events."

UNO's alcohol education program addresses violations of these policies in a non-accusing, informative way that pertains to college students, Bock said. The emphases of the programs are general, explaining where students' behavior fits in with normal behavior rather than overtly pushing abstinence.

"It's meant to be a class, not a punishment," Bock said. "If you put judgment into education, it changes it."

Lavene said he encourages students to share Bock's attitude that the courses are educational and not punitive.

"There's no finger-pointing," Lavene said.

In the Alcohol 101 class, Bock said he or counselor Mark Frillman discuss alcohol with up to six students for an hour and a half — an additional half hour from previous years — at the initial meeting. A follow-up appointment is also conducted, where students talk with a counselor about personal, negative issues with alcohol and develop a plan to address them. The whole Alcohol 101 program takes about two hours.

"These are all life skills," Bock explained, saying the material learned in Alcohol 101 can be applied to other goals and serve a student for the rest of his or her life.

Alcohol 201 addresses many of the same things as the initial program, but focuses on why the student returned. Similarities between the first and second offense are examined, and the student completes an autobiography in an attempt to clarify the program's messages.

Both classes also have students complete a College Alcohol Profile online at uno.collegealcoholprofile.com, which compares the student's drinking habits with that of average results from a random survey of 452 UNK, UNO and Wayne State College students. The profile takes about five minutes to complete.

Among the statistics provided are how the student's frequency and amount of drinking compares to other college students, the calories consumed in a typical month from alcohol and the frequency of alcohol-related problems.

For instance, according to the Web site's survey of Nebraska college students, the average college male experiences 10.8 alcohol-related problems per year. The average male also consumes 4.1 drinks 11.1 times a month — that's 13.5 drinks per week on average.

Bock said any UNO student interested in completing a profile could do so at the Web site. Some UNO athletes, members of the Greek community and others have used the service in addition to Alcohol 101 participants.

Overall, Bock said excessive drinking is a concern for the university because of the repercussions it could have, including potential violence and people getting hurt — physically, emotionally, sexually, academically and in other ways.

UNO is around the national average with alcohol problems, Bock said, so while it could be a larger issue, enforcement, education and preventative measures are important to keep alcohol violations from running out of control.

Degree persistence is another important factor, Lavene said. The lower the rates of alcohol violations, the more students are likely to graduate.

The value of every UNO student's degree upon graduation is also impacted, Bock noted. Having the perception that UNO is a party school diminishes the respect that potential employers have for graduates' degrees.

"We're all in this together," Bock said. "We really are."

Students hold safer sex talks

NICOLE HIGGINBOTHAM
CONTRIBUTOR

UNO students recently found out that safe sex assemblies didn't end in high school.

The Safer Sex Cabaret, sponsored by UNO's Gender and Sexual Orientation student agency, was held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sept. 18 in the Milo Bail Student Center.

Approximately 40 attendees were educated on foreplay, healthy relationships, STDs, HIV, condoms, lube, aphrodisiacs and sex toy do's and don'ts.

"The Safer Sex Cabaret is an educational program on safer sex and sex alternatives," said Ejay Jack, director of the GSO. "The program objective is to promote individual exploration and empowerment concerning one's sense of desire, limits and options with respect to intimate relationships with self and others."

Lori Young, director of the UNO Women's Resource Center, kicked off the Safer Sex Cabaret with a presentation on foreplay techniques.

Nakiea Boethaer and Gary Winingham, from the Nebraska AIDS Project, followed Young with their demonstration on how to properly use a condom and a speech on how to prevent the transmission of STDs and HIV.

The interesting part of this presentation was the incorporation of straight, transgender, lesbian and gay safe sex information.

"[For] women who have sex with other women," Boethaer said, "there's a high Chlamydia transmission."

Boethaer explained no matter what kind of sex one is having, there always needs to be a condom in place.

Winingham and Boethaer then demonstrated how to use both a male and female condom, where Boethaer tried to show that no one had a body part that couldn't fit in a condom.

"If you're wearing condoms correctly and consistently," Winingham said, "they're not going to break."

Ann Smolsky, from the Nebraska AIDS Project, was next with a presentation on aphrodisiacs.

"Aphrodisiacs definitely work in the fantasy part of sex," Smolsky said. "If you're unhealthy, you may not get aroused."

Smolsky showed a PowerPoint on the different foods and scents that increased blood flow in the human body, commenting on how she thought it was interesting that "lavender and pumpkin pie increase blood flow to the penis by 40 percent."

She also explained that pheromones were increased sexual arousal but that the smell that a person was attracted to was based on the orientation of the person.

The Safer Sex Cabaret ended with Misty Beck's presentation on the pros and cons of sex toys.

All of the presenters set up booth students could ask any questions that they had throughout the assembly.

This was the first year that UNO held the Safer Sex Cabaret and the first event of the school year for the GSO. Upcoming events for the agency include National Coming Out Day on Oct. 10 and Transgender Day of Remembrance in November.

For more information on the GSO, contact Ejay Jack at (402) 554-4846 or visit unogso.unomaha.edu.

CRIME LOG

COMPILED BY
SCOTT STEWART
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Friday, Sept. 12

12:15 a.m. While on patrol, Campus Security witnesses a visitor urinating in Lot K. Further investigation identified a resident of University Village as intoxicated. A student was referred for disciplinary action. A visitor was issued a ban and bar notice.

Saturday, Sept. 13

12:01 a.m. While on patrol, Campus Security witnessed a visitor urinating in Lot K. Further investigation disclosed an alcohol violation in

Sunday, Sept. 14

2:12 a.m. While on patrol, Campus Security witnessed suspicious activity in Lot K. Further investigation disclosed an alcohol violation. One student was referred for disciplinary action.

2:45 a.m. While on patrol, Campus Security witnessed suspicious activity in Lot J. Further investigation disclosed an alcohol violation. Two students were referred for disciplinary action.

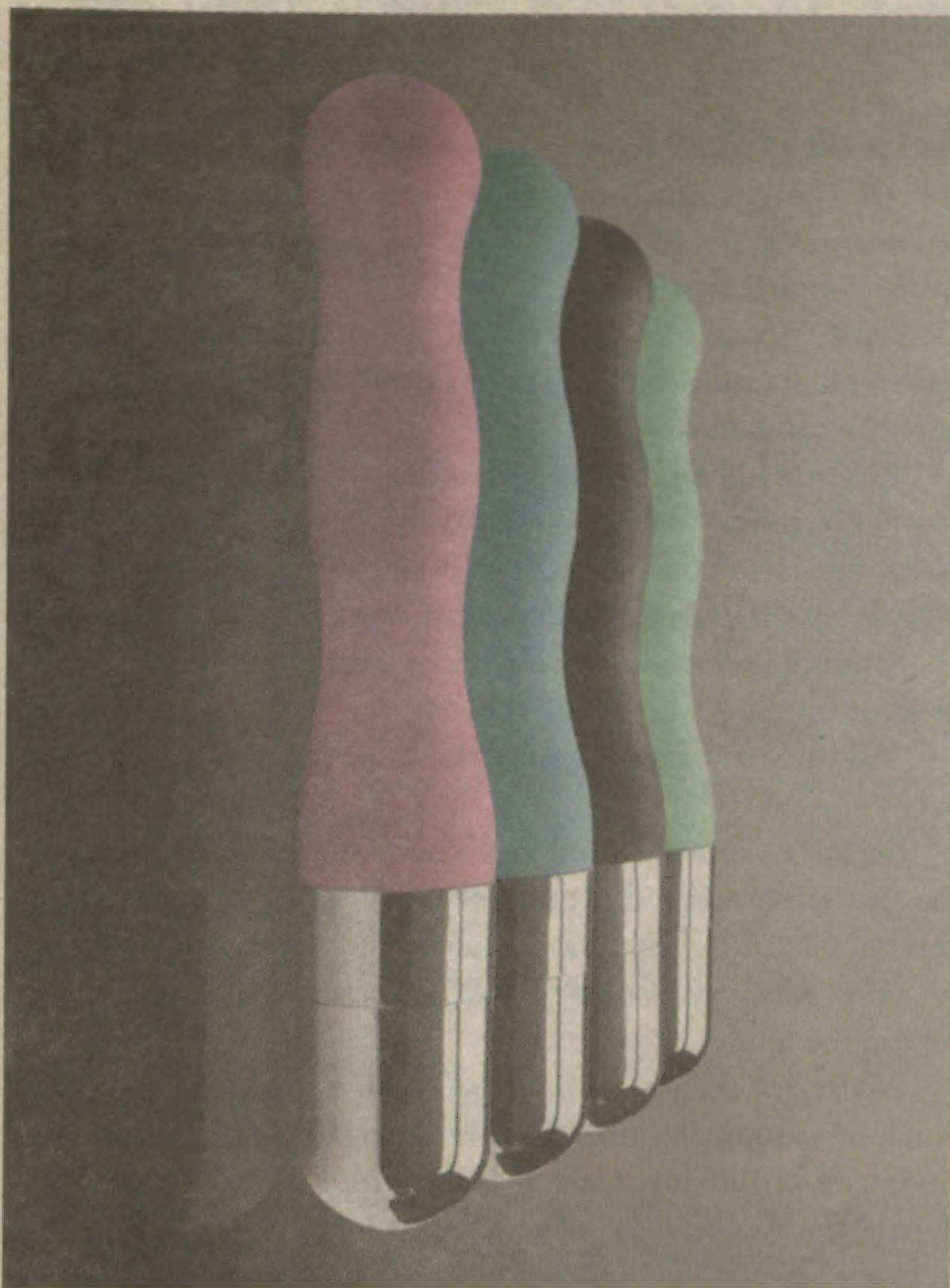
4 a.m. While on patrol, Campus Security

witnessed willful reckless driving. Further investigation disclosed the driver was a visitor on campus with an outstanding warrant. Omaha police took the suspect into custody. The passenger in the vehicle was a visitor and refused a breath test. The suspect was cited for minor in possession.

Monday, Sept. 15

11:35 p.m. Campus Security received a telephone complaint regarding an alcohol violation at University Village. Upon arrival and further investigation, four students were found to be in possession of alcohol. All four were referred for disciplinary action.

Students have doubts, curiosity about iPod-synched vibrator



The OhMiBod's new NaughtiBod line comes in four flavors: bubblegum, blueberry, licorice and green apple. (COURTESY THREE GIRLS MEDIA)

DOUG TAYLOR
CONTRIBUTOR

Jamming out to your favorite music is not the only function your iPod is capable of these days.

As technology has evolved, electronic devices have become more and more versatile. The OhMiBod, a music-powered vibrator, enables people to simultaneously listen to their favorite songs and engage in self-pleasure using the same device.

The OhMiBod was created by a former Apple employee and mother of two in 2004 and made its retail debut in 2006. At the time, the creator's intent was to reinvigorate her 15-year marriage.

These days, college students ages 18 to 24 are one of the company's largest target groups, according to Three Girls

Media & Marketing, the public relations agency that represents OhMiBod.

Although it was designed for use with iPods specifically, the OhMiBod is compatible with any MP3 player. Additionally, the OhMiBod will work in unison with virtually any electronic audio output source that has a 3.5-mm jack. The OhMiBod is compatible with home stereos, laptops, portable CD players, and even an electric guitar if so desired.

To begin using the device, the user needs to first plug the splitter into the iPod or other compatible unit. Second, plug the earbuds and "freedom cord" into the splitter. Upon connecting the other end of the cord to the vibrator, the OhMiBod is ready to operate.

The vibrator will pulsate to the beat of any musical genre, whether the user prefers Metallica or prefers the softer tones of an artist like John Mayer. An audio enabled microchip allows the massager on the vibrator to the beat and rhythm of the music being played.

Without an iPod, the OhMiBod will still function as a traditional "multi-speed" vibrator by removing its audio input end cap and replacing it with the multi-speed end cap.

The OhMiBod is available at a cost of \$69.99. Although it is not currently being sold at any Omaha area retail locations, it can be ordered through a variety of websites including OhMiBod's official site www.ohmibod.com.

The OhMiBod is offered only in white and the standard size is 5.5 inches long with a diameter of 1.125 inches. The company does offer smaller and larger sizes based on a customer's preference.

Ejay Jack, director of UNO's Gender and Sexual Orientation student agency, said he recognizes the OhMiBod's appeal to college students.

"The synching of music to a vibrating beat is great in my book," Jack said. "Also, the size could be both a plus or minus depending on your preference or comfort level."

Senior Maureen Kiteley expressed intrigue along with some skepticism after hearing about the OhMiBod for the first time.

"It's an interesting concept, but I don't know how mainstream it will get unless it's more affordable," Kiteley said. "It's something new; it's different than most things. You have control over the effect it has, and I absolutely see the appeal, but students most likely wouldn't shell out \$70 for a novelty vibrator."

Jack also agreed that the cost associated with the vibrator

is one of its few drawbacks.

"I suppose the cost of the OhMiBod would inhibit students as opposed to traditional vibrators," Jack said. "If you search/shop for vibrators on places at stores like Early to Bed or Toys in Babeland, you will notice they can cost as little as \$12 up to \$50, \$60, \$70."

According to Jack, who organized the Safer Sex Cabaret held at UNO on Sept. 18, cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea in Douglas County are especially alarming in comparison to other parts of the country among 15 to 24 year olds. Coincidentally, OhMiBod has also been marketed as a form of "non-traditional" safe sex for college students.

While Jack sees some validity to the OhMiBod acting as a method of safe sex, he is quick to point out there are also more effective devices on the market.

"Sex toys can be a form of safe sex with oneself and while also playing with others," Jack said, "as long as people use their own toys on themselves and fluids are not exchanged across mucus membranes."

Kiteley does not believe that the OhMiBod is a legitimate option for UNO students in search of a new form of safe sex. She feels that the OhMiBod is far from being a replacement for sex and would actually act as a sexual enhancement.

"I don't think any sex toy is going to give you that much of a boost in safe sex," Kiteley said. "If anything, it might lead to more sex. The iPod is definitely geared towards a younger generation."



The OhMiBod vibrators synch with music being played on an Apple iPod or other compatible MP3 devices. (COURTESY THREE GIRLS MEDIA)

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Columbia debates return of ROTC

LIEN HOANG
COLUMBIA DAILY SPECTATOR

NEW YORK (UWIRE) — At a closed-door meeting on Wednesday, student leaders' discussion about the possible return of Reserve Officers' Training Corps to Columbia University digressed into another issue — who exactly should be included in student-body talks.

The Columbia administration's long-standing refusal to allow ROTC programs on campus came under renewed assault last week when, at a nationally-televised campus event, U.S. presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain both spoke out in opposition to the controversial policy.

Sunday night, Columbia College Student Council Vice President for Policy Adil Ahmed announced a new protocol that will permit students from all four undergraduate colleges at Columbia to hold referendums to advise the University Senate and Board of Trustees of their positions on heated issues. That move was widely viewed as paving the way for a vote this semester on Columbia's official stance on ROTC.

The newest push to revisit the ROTC policy was spurred by engineering students who have expressed frustration that the naval ROTC — a route, they say, to recouping college loans—doesn't operate a program in Manhattan.

Early advocates of the ROTC referendum were University Senator Monica Quaintance, Columbia College Student Council class of 2011 President and Spectator film editor Learned Foote and Engineering University Senator Rajat Roy. The new vote protocol was authored by Ahmed and Engineering Student Council President Peter Valeiras.

Wednesday evening's event brought together "umbrella organizations," including cultural and political groups, student councils, the Student Governing Board and the Activities Board at Columbia in an attempt to clarify the policy.

But the meeting itself was overshadowed by complaints from certain student groups that they were excluded from the discussion.

Ryan Kasdin, co-president of Everyone Allied Against Homophobia, attended the meeting but was asked to leave — along with Foote — because the organizers decided that it wasn't fair to include the group when others that had also wanted to join were not allowed.

Although the Columbia Queer Alliance partook in the meeting, fellow Everyone Allied president Ira Stup said just one group could not represent the seven unique LGBT groups on campus.

Kasdin and Stup drafted a response letter during the meeting and handed them to participants when it adjourned.

"There is an unfortunate parallel between the silencing and discriminatory nature of the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy implicit in ROTC and the forced exit of an LGBT advocacy group from a meeting about an issue of such personal and acute importance to our community," the letter stated.

The criticism marks a larger tension among groups excluded from the talks — specifically, some say, those with an anti-war stance.

"It's problematic that groups who have a stake in the issue weren't involved," said Johanna Ocana, president of Lucha. She said she e-mailed a request to attend the meetings but was told to check with the United Students of Color Council and the Student Organization of Latinos.

Ahmed handled the e-mail invitations and said that there was no intention to leave out anti-war groups, but that the meeting was just meant to work out logistics, not talk politics.

"I can't say it was the best decision or the easiest decision," Ahmed said. "It just worked out somehow. It was a diverse array of groups there."

Valeiras said the meeting centered on planning the process of an ROTC survey that, according to Ahmed, would probably go out to students within six weeks.

The results from the survey, which would ask students

SEE ROTC: PAGE 9

Notre Dame groups receive funding

Political groups permitted to use university money to support candidates

JOSEPH McMAHON
THE OBSERVER

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (UWIRE) — The Notre Dame Student Senate unanimously passed a resolution Wednesday allowing the College Republicans, Democrats and Libertarians to use university-allocated funds to support the nominated candidates of their respective parties.

While the groups cannot directly donate to any candidate and any appearance by a political speaker must follow the guidelines which apply to all speakers, the new resolution allows the clubs to hand out promotional materials such as T-shirts and bumper stickers, as well as post signs around campus.

"When [Student Body President] Bob Reish and I were campaigning, a lot of students said the campus wasn't political enough," Student Body Vice President Grant Schmidt said. "We wanted there to be access to the candidates themselves."

Schmidt said he and Senate Oversight committee chair Ian Secviar spent a great deal of time meeting with university officials to develop the amendment.

"A lot of my work has been working on this amendment. ... This is something for the 2008 election, and we wanted to get the ball rolling because it is already Sept. 17," Schmidt said. "I think this is a great step in the right direction for students to engage in this dialogue and not be stifled."

The amendment also allows the three groups to use their funds to transport students to political rallies. This amendment comes soon after members of the College Republicans were forced to use their own money to attend a John McCain-Sarah Palin rally in Sterling Heights, Mich.

"I really agree with this," Alumni Hall senator Zach Reuvers said. "A lot of members of College Republicans approached me after the Student Activities Office didn't allow them to go to the rally [using university funds.] I think it's just common sense."

The amendment stipulates that only the three clubs directly

associated with political parties may support a specific candidate, and other groups which may have political interests, including the campus's Right to Life and NAACP clubs, cannot endorse anyone running for office.

Senate Social Concerns committee chair Gus Gari said it made sense for only the three political clubs to have the right to endorse a candidate.

"Right to Life is not exclusively affiliated with the Republican Party," Gari said. "We kind of had this laid out because their groups are based on the parties. Personally, I'm happy we're going to have a more politically-aware campus."

Schmidt said student government must give all three clubs the same funding, which is \$2,606.04.

"All three groups must have the same resources," Schmidt said.

Senate Campus Technology committee chair Devin Fee, who previously worked on the allocation of funding for clubs with the Club Coordination Council, said this new stipulation will affect how much money CCC chooses to allocate to the clubs in the future.

Not every senator was pleased with the idea that tuition money for campus organizations was going to be used to support candidates in Indiana. Carroll Hall senator Nick Ruof said he thought the idea was great for the presidential election, but that he didn't like the idea of tuition money being used to support local candidates.

"I feel like the student body is not all from Indiana and our money could be used for something greater on campus," Ruof said.

After passing the resolution, Schmidt briefly mentioned that the student government-sponsored Mock Election is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 8. But he said it may be pushed back until after Fall Break. Schmidt said student government needs to decide whether students would cast their votes online or at designated booths.

FROM ACT: PAGE 1

are predominately white, and whites statistically do better on the exam than minorities. The need for greater equality in the educational system is demonstrated by the study's findings that Caucasians averaged 22.5 while African Americans averaged only 17.5 on the ACT.

Colleges look to more than just test scores to determine the quality of incoming students. Classrank, extracurricular activities and special merits are also considered because test scores do not always reflect the best that a student has to offer. Motivation, study skills, persistence, commitment and any number of interpersonal and human factors are important to student success. McCuen attributed the deficiencies of Nebraska graduates to a "misalignment of what students are required to learn in high school and what they're required to be able to do in college."

Because of the vast amount of material to choose from, it is important to ensure that students are learning the information that is required to be successful in college and afterwards in a career.

Ways to improve student preparedness include "introducing math and being more diligent at math earlier" and "a lot of attention on the core subjects," McCuen said.

Taking hard classes in high school can acquaint students with the discipline and persistence required to succeed at the postsecondary level.

"Our emphasis has been to encourage students to take challenging courses while in high school and ACT data indicates all students benefit from this approach," said Marshall Hill, executive director of the commission in a statement.

Students who have taken the core set of classes consistently score 2 or 3 points higher on each section of the test.

High schools encourage all students to take the ACT. Student performance on the test is often used as a guide to finding weaknesses and teaching a different curriculum to improve those deficient skills, said Cathy Andrus, guidance director of Central High School.

Taking remedial classes and taking prerequisites at two-year institutions are among the costly consequences of graduating students of lower academic caliber, McCuen said.

FROM JUICY: PAGE 1

Ivester recognizes that there really is no way for them to know whether or not a post is true. So, instead, JuicyCampus asks on the site that users don't post lies about other people — that's "called defamation and it's illegal," Ivester said.

In order to combat at least some of the controversy surrounding the content, JuicyCampus has added the "Agree/Disagree" option on the new edition of the site. It allows users in the community to anonymously vote on the truth of a particular post.

If someone wishes to question the integrity of a post, Ivester suggests simply participate.

"If a student feels that there is inaccurate information on the site, we encourage them to go on the site and reply with their opinion and/or additional information," Ivester said. "Everyone has an equal voice on JuicyCampus."

Teachers, administrators and parents across the nation have repeatedly spoken out against JuicyCampus for its tendency to spread defamation. Keisner is among those who believe that the site does far more harm than good.

"While I support internet freedom," Keisner said, "JuicyCampus.com appears to be a site devoted to sexual exploitation and ridicule."

JuicyCampus, however, doesn't bat an eye at such criticisms. "We don't care what parents or professors think," said Ivester. "Our site is built for students and is immensely popular among students."

This is a true statement — the site draws thousands of users to spread the latest details about their schools every day. Jones stated that, unfortunately, he saw JuicyCampus.com gaining the popularity of Web sites such as Facebook and Myspace.

Keisner, however, offered a positive alternative to the controversies of JuicyCampus.com.

"If UNO students are seeking an honest, empowering and positive discussion about sexuality on college campuses," Keisner said, "then they should join a 'Difficult Dialogues' session and stay far, far away from the mostly hateful and ignorant remarks posted on JuicyCampus.com."

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Road blues: Geoff Koch comes to Omaha

REVIEW BY
STEVE COUFAL
STAFF WRITER

Geoff Koch is a road warrior.

"The big U.S. push for this record was from July 21 through Dec. 23," Koch said last Tuesday night before his show at the PS Collective. "And there will probably be about 80 shows-ish."

Don't feel bad for him, though. It's what he loves doing.

"I would love to just play every day," Koch said. "Have them put me on the road, like 15 [to] 25 days at a time, come back for a handful of days and then go out on another thing."

Koch has recently recorded and released an album called "If It Feels Good, Don't Do It." His tour is in support of this album.

Over the sound of people talking and the smell of pizza drifting into the room, Koch talked about the ups and

downs of the road.

Koch said he loves being on tour because he gets to travel to different cities. Being on the road gives him inspiration for new songs, he said. However, touring has its downsides.

"Lately I've been going through a tough patch," Koch said. "There are so many things that are soul crushing about touring. A lot of times you end up in your back seat because that day or the last couple days have been terrible, and you have to choose between a hotel room and a tank of gas. Touring is a world of good and bad. Touring is so bipolar."

Around 8 p.m., Koch started his show. His music was not particularly unique: acoustic rock that resided somewhere between Ryan Adams and Augustana.

His singing and song writing were his strong points, and he accumulated a solid group of tunes on this album.

What did make the show stand out was the impassioned, committed performance. It would have been easy to mail in a performance to a handful of people in Omaha, Neb., but

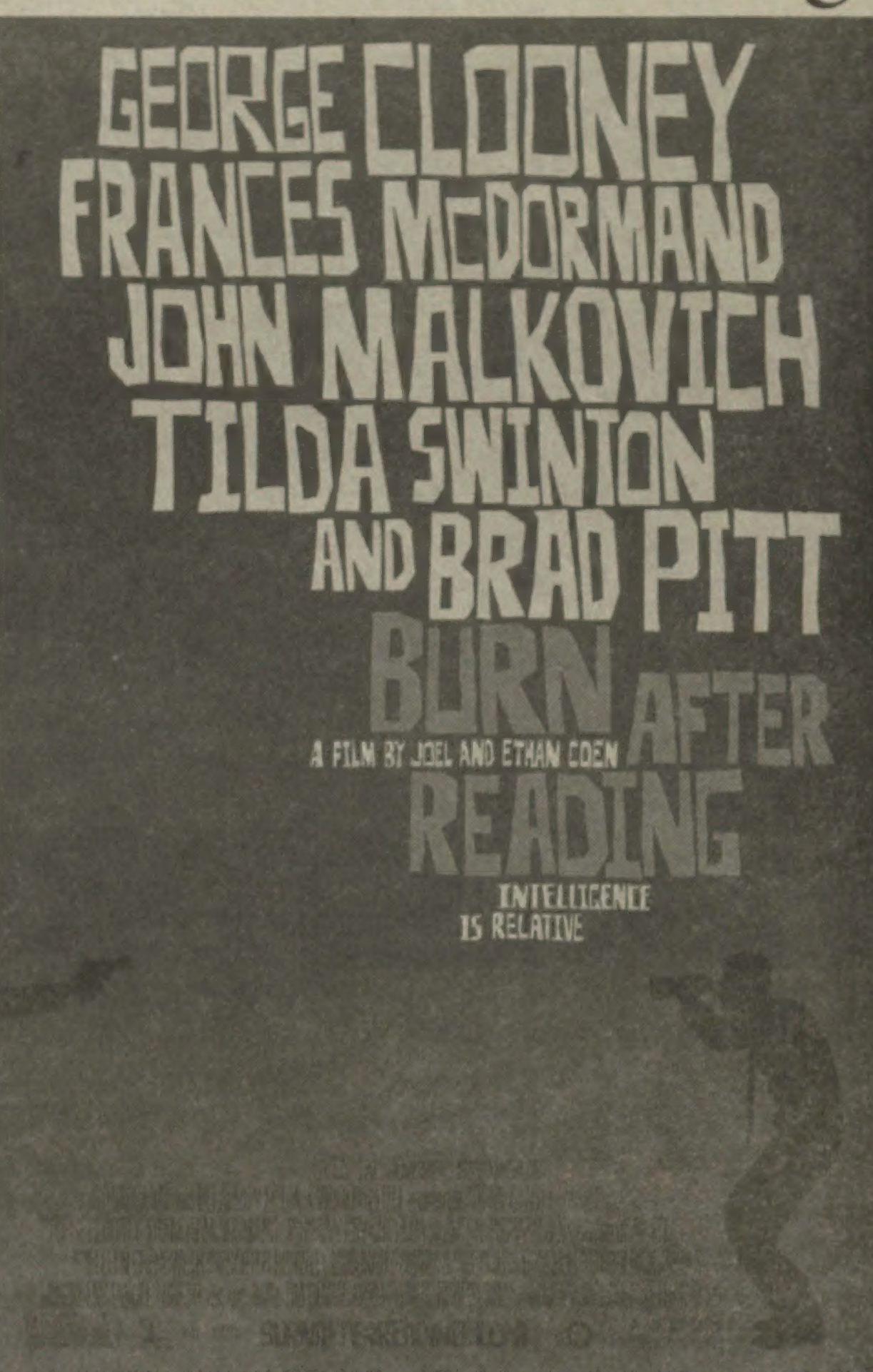
Koch really put himself into the performance. The show was compelling because of the soul that Koch invested into it.

After the show, Koch was ready to drive to Ames, Iowa. He might have had a sleeping bag in his backseat ready for another restless night in his car.

As for motivation for continuing the music career: "I just felt like I've been handed a baton," Koch said. "Somewhere along the line I think I got the music bug, and I feel good about passing the baton to some other people. If I can inspire people like I have been inspired, then I think that's really what I want to do."

Those wanting to find out more about Geoff Koch can check out his Web site, geoffkoch.net or listen for free on his MySpace page, myspace.com/geoffreykochmusic. His next visit to Omaha will be at Mick's on Nov. 13.

'Burn After Reading'



REVIEW BY
LIZ E. ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

The Coen Brothers' new film "Burn After Reading" signals a turn away from the dark introspection of "No Country for Old Men" back to the realm of full-on farce. (The absence of a cattle gun from the trailers may have clued you into this.)

The result is a darkly satisfying, humorous film; though it is perhaps less powerful than the Coens' previous ventures.

The story follows two bumbling gym employees, Chad Feldheimer (Brad Pitt) and Linda Litzke (Frances McDormand), who stumble across something they think is classified information. From there they concoct — in the loosest possible sense of that word — a scheme which will somehow, maybe, kind of make them rich.

The blackmailers, with their ludicrously flawed attempts to carry out cloak-and-dagger-type dealings, comprise a satisfying return to that well-worn Coen Brother device. Driven ever forward with a cross between stupidity and self-absorption, they commit acts that rapidly spin beyond their control (and understanding).

Also figuring into the mess is an adulterous, high-powered D.C. couple. Harry Pfarrer, (George Clooney) is a Treasury Department agent with growing paranoia. His mistress, Katie Cox (Tilda Swinton), is considering divorce from her newly-unemployed, ex-CIA analyst spouse Osborne Cox (John Malkovich).

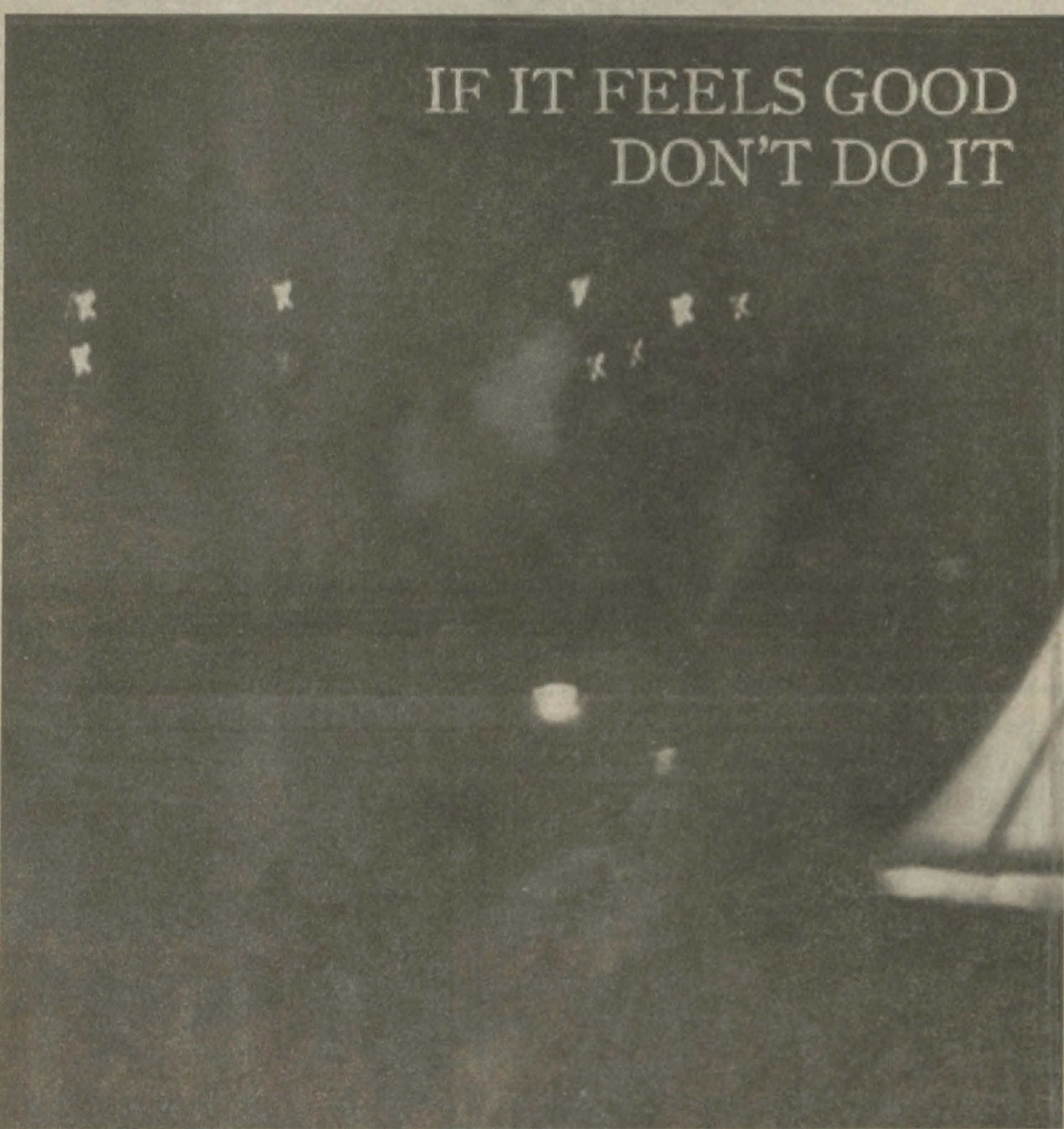
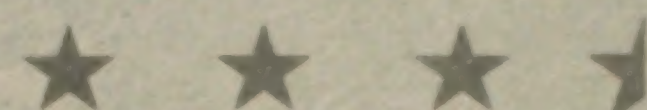
While Swinton and Malkovich give fine performances, Clooney's complicated portrayal of the neurotic, immature Pfarrer is the show-stealer. He's creepy to boot.

All of this notwithstanding, I can't shake the feeling that this film lacks something. The sheer idiocy of the key players, which I usually enjoy, is somewhat disconcerting.

Feldheimer and Litzke, perhaps by product of their endorphin-induced over-exuberance, aren't as real or compelling as were the Jerry Lundegaards and Lebowskis of yore. Pitt and McDormand play the characters to a 'T,' but one question kept coming to my mind as I watched: seriously, can anyone be that stupid?

Putting that aside, "Burn After Reading" is quirky, entertaining and insightful in many respects. Its presentation of a totally inept CIA — and for that I have to include side applause to J.K. Simmons in his role as an upper-level CIA director — is as hilarious as it is seriously disturbing.

My main quip, which may in fact come down to a question of taste, is that this film possesses far more wackiness than realism or heart.



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UNO falls to Pittsburg State, rebounds against Southwest Baptist



Ellen Thommes, left, and Kayla Uhing, center, throw up blocks against Pittsburg State's Sammie Williams during Friday's match in Pittsburg, Kan. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

MICHELLE BISHOP
PHOTO EDITOR

PITTSBURG, Kan. — The Mavs salvaged a split during their first MIAA road trip.

Pittsburg State made quick work of the Mavs Friday night by sweeping UNO in three sets (25-15, 25-18, 25-20).

UNO's 22 hitting errors and .030 hitting percentage led the No. 16 ranked Gorillas to a home court win in front of 685 fans at John Lance Arena.

The Mavs committed seven service errors, compared to just two service aces.

"We are just trying to lessen errors right now," junior middle blocker Ellen Thommes said. "Hitting errors, blocking errors, serving errors, everything."

Sophomore outside hitter Kayla Uhing paced the Mavs with seven kills and two digs.

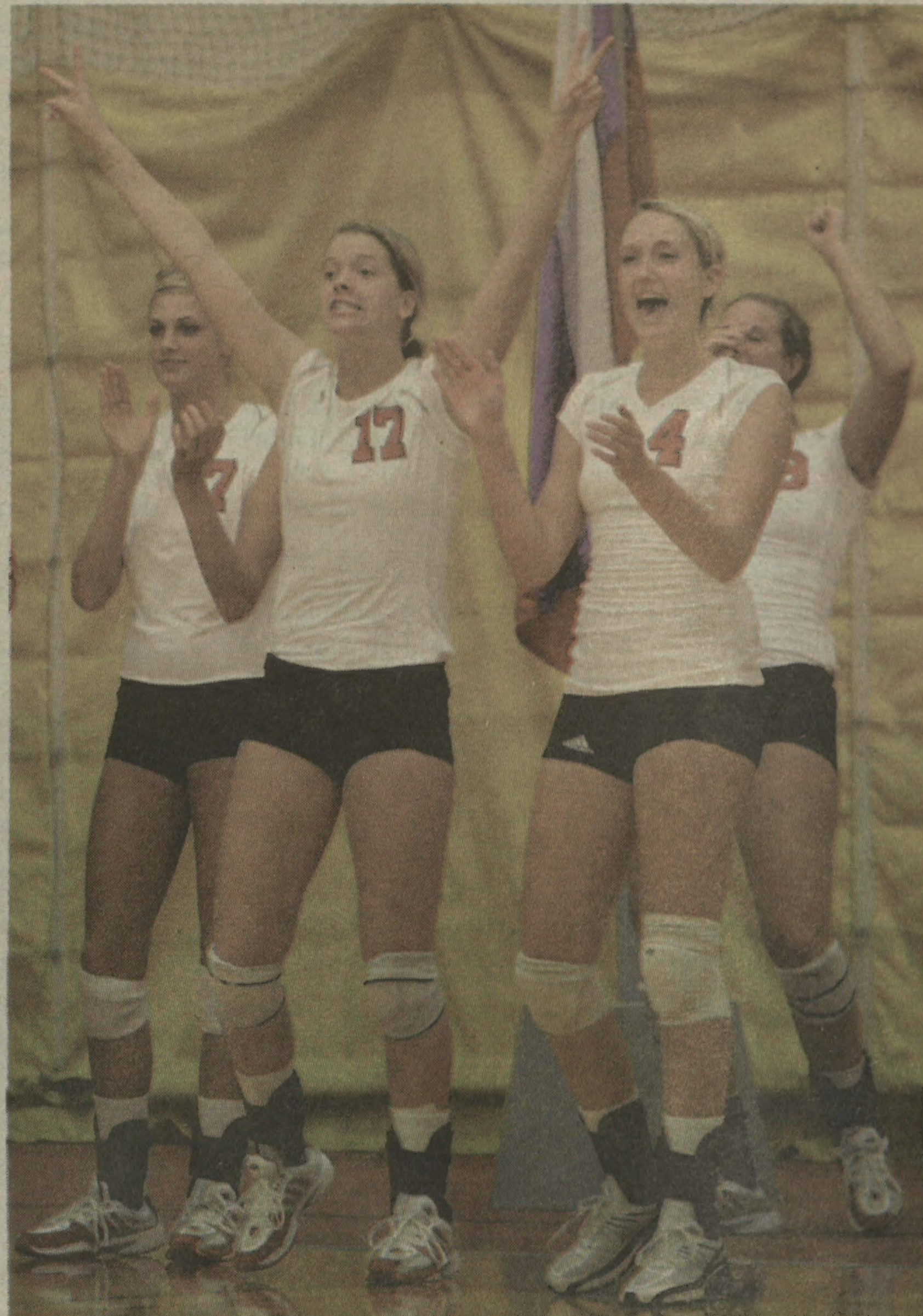
"Halfway during the game, we were there mentally, we were pushing them and then something happened right in the middle of every set where we clicked off mentally," Thommes said. "I think we started off good, which is something we've been working on in practice."

Thommes pounded six kills and a match-high five blocks as UNO grabbed an 8-3 advantage in total team blocks.

"For 12, 13, 14 points each set, I thought we really played well," head coach Rose Shires said. "We played with the ability to beat the No. 16th team in the country."

Sophomore Jamie Tooley recorded a team-

SEE **VOLLEYBALL**: PAGE 9



The Mavericks cheer after a point during Friday's match against Pittsburg State. UNO won the match in three sets: 25-15, 25-18, 25-20. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

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Mavs drop road challenge, but pick up conference win at home



Hilary Horvatic, left, shields the ball from Missouri Southern's Brianna McKenzie. (VALERIE LOSEKE/THE GATEWAY)



Tara Wegehaupt, left, and Danielle Cheney, right, chase after Missouri Southern's Jentri White during Saturday afternoon's game at UNO Soccer Field. (VALERIE LOSEKE/THE GATEWAY)



MaryClaire Murnan, left, and Becca Swanson, right, move to goal against Missouri Southern goalkeeper Randi Russell in the first half. Murnan put the ball by Russell moments later to score UNO's second of four goals. (VALERIE LOSEKE/THE GATEWAY)

SCOTT STEWART
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Don Klosterman, head coach of UNO's women's soccer team, thinks the Mavericks could be "so much better" than the other teams in their conference.

Klosterman said UNO's players need to learn that the person with the ball is, in some respects, the least important. Her teammates are the ones who need to coordinate, communicate and help score goals.

The Mavericks split Mid-America

Intercollegiate Athletic Association matches this weekend, dropping a road game against Central Missouri (5-1-1, 3-0) on Thursday, but returning to Omaha to defeat Missouri Southern (2-4, 0-3) at the UNO Soccer Field Saturday afternoon.

"I think we're finding this team out," Klosterman said Saturday after the game. "It's coming, but the process sometimes is slow."

Klosterman said the coaching staff — himself, Ted Anderson and Ed Dudley — were still learning little things about the team, while preaching

the importance of communication.

"We've really been on them about communication," Klosterman said. "The whole team should be screaming at those guys."

On Thursday in Warrensburg, Mo., UNO defended against Central Missouri to result in a scoreless first half. The Jennies, however, pulled ahead with three consecutive goals in just over 14 minutes in the second half, with goals from Sharaya Sidebottom, Alyssa Rhodes and Melanie Hall.

Junior Mykala Hanson saved the

SEE **SOCCER**: PAGE 8

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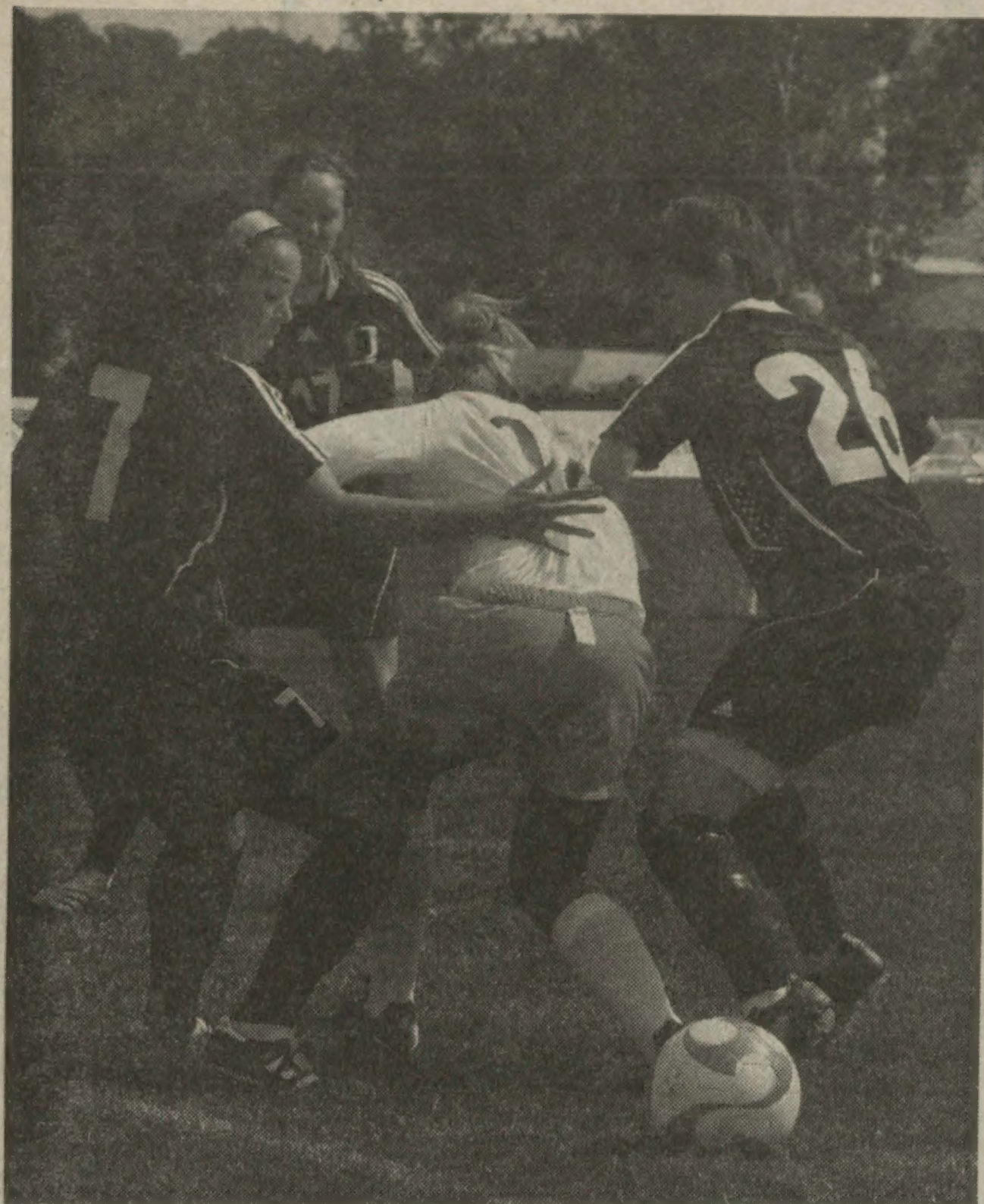
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FROM **SOCCER**: PAGE 7

Jerica Kuncel, left, and Brittany Battaglia, right, push aside a Missouri Southern player. (VALERIE LOSEKE/THE GATEWAY)

Mavs from a shutout, though, with an unassisted goal in the 68th minute.

Klosterman described a four or five minute "black hole" on Thursday, adding it was hard to explain what happened. Still, he hoped the Mavs learned something from the loss.

"Something you just have to learn from that," Klosterman said. "Central Missouri is a tough deal, but in some ways it will pay off for us."

Saturday, however, fared better for the Mavericks. Senior Amanda Iwansky put the ball into the lower left corner of the net at the 1:20 mark to open the game with a 1-0 UNO lead. Junior Lindsey Nealon had the assist.

The Lions responded three minutes later with a goal from Sarah Evers, assisted by a cross to the middle of the goal box from Stephanie Heines. The 1-1 score would stand for a little over 26 minutes.

UNO pulled ahead 2-1 with an unassisted, open net

goal by senior MaryClaire Murnan, who recovered the ball on a breakaway from the goalkeeper, moving from the left side of the goal box to the right for an easy tap-in.

The couple hundred Mav fans in the crowd exploded with applause after Murnan's goal, while the Lions pushed back aggressively the next play.

Their aggressiveness, like the hot temperature at the UNO Soccer Field, would fade as the clouds moved in; the clock kept ticking and the Mavs kept putting goals in the back of the net.

UNO's final two goals of the afternoon were both also unassisted efforts. Freshman Hilary Horvatic scored No. 3 at the 71:38 mark, and freshman Becca Swanson lobbed a ball over Missouri Southern goalkeeper Russell Randi's head with just over 10 minutes left to play.

Randi, who played the entire game, was credited with nine saves in addition to the four goals allowed to the Mavs. She also had to deal with an overwhelming shooting differential, with UNO shooting 8 times for



Tara Wegehaupt, center, moves in for a tackle against Missouri Southern's Sarah Evers. (VALERIE LOSEKE/THE GATEWAY)



Amanda Iwansky, center left, and Tara Wegehaupt, center right, move towards the ball. (VALERIE LOSEKE/THE GATEWAY)

every one shot by the Lions.

Of course, UNO also had nearly a 2-to-1 shooting differential with Central Missouri on Thursday, as well as seven corner kicks to the Jennies' two.

The key difference between the two games, Klosterman said, was UNO scored goals on Saturday, although he said the Mavs, at times, played "much, much, much better" on Saturday than they had the game before.

"Thursday wasn't where we want to be," Klosterman said.

Dropping the first goal to Central Missouri prevented UNO from building the momentum and confidence to keep playing. Klosterman said Missouri Southern's tying goal early in the first half of Saturday's game, however, was interesting because the Mavericks still stayed aggressive.

Still, Klosterman said UNO "wasn't really good" again at the beginning of the second half on Saturday. Things picked up, though, as Horvatic and Swanson organized goal-scoring opportunities.

The Mavericks will take the field again this week against Truman State at the UNO Soccer Field at 1 p.m. on Sept. 27. The following two weeks will see the Mavericks facing a series of road contests against MIAA foes - Southwest Baptist on Oct. 2, Northwest Missouri State on Oct. 4, Emporia State on Oct. 9, and Washburn on Oct. 11.

UNO will then play each of the conference's eight opponents another time, completing double round-robin play. The team or teams with the best regular-season MIAA record will be named MIAA champions.

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FROM TRIAL: PAGE 1

him to “sit back and shut the fuck up,” Dieguez told the jury. Nevertheless, Dieguez and Petersen both said, Bormann started talking after that.

Bormann told the officers he was upset by calls made in an NFL game that evening – telling them “you know how those blacks are,” the officers said. Bormann then placed his deer rifle in his car and began driving around.

Petersen said Bormann abruptly finished his statements by saying, “But I didn’t shoot anybody tonight.”

Tom Riley, Bormann’s public defender, emphasized in cross examination that the officers did not remember Bormann’s exact words and that the Omaha police did not provide a recording of Bormann’s statement in the cruiser.

Dieguez, becoming frustrated by Riley’s questions, sharply replied at one point, “I may have missed an ‘a’ or a ‘the,’” but the essence of his testimony was accurate. He also testified that, as far as he knew, the recording of Bormann’s statement was never downloaded onto the Omaha Police Department’s servers.

Riley called attention to that point: “It doesn’t exist, does it?” he asked Dieguez.

Bormann’s trial was scheduled to resume on Monday. For more on the trial, pick up Friday’s issue of The Gateway.

FROM ROTC: PAGE 4

whether they believe ROTC should have a place on campus, would be presented to the University Senate who will then make the final decision.

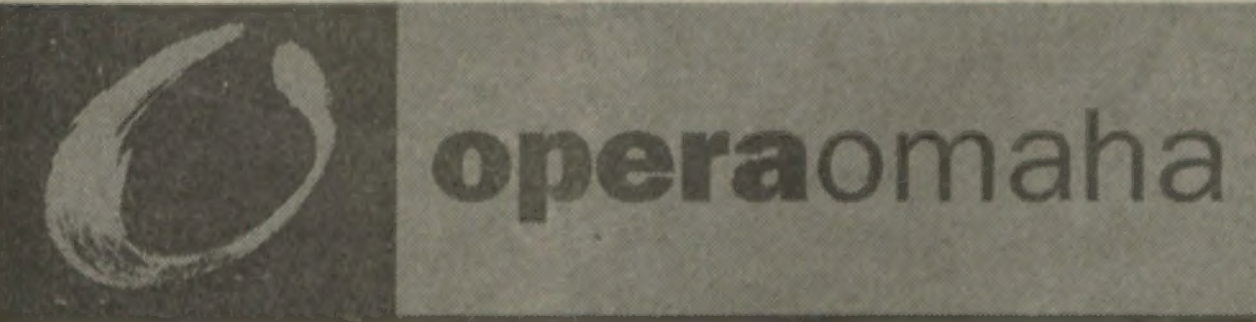
After the gathering, participants declined to give specifics, instead referring Spectator to the minutes taken by Scott St. Marie, ABC treasurer, who would transcribe his notes and send them to those in the meeting for review, before sending them out to media on a future date.

Ahmed also declined to give specifics, saying they figured out the “what and how” for the coming survey — though questions have not been finalized — as well as planned two forums to precede it.

“Other groups will present their views” on ROTC at the forums, Ahmed said. “Hopefully, their voices will be heard.”

But by choosing to dismiss media, meeting leaders prevented students from sharing their opinions and were “very intentional in their secrecy,” Kasdin said.

Stup added, “Keeping the meeting manageable is one thing, but keeping it from people it affects is mismanagement.”



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FROM VOLLEYBALL: PAGE 6

high 12 digs and eight assists.

The Mavs played without Kelli Goeser and Annie Rice. Goeser is out indefinitely with a sprained ligament in her foot, while Rice became ill before the game.

On Saturday, the Mavs rebounded and swept Southwest Baptist 3-0 (25-21, 25-23, 25-16) at the Meyer Wellness Center.

Thommes helped lead the UNO attack by hitting .818 with nine kills in 11 attempts with no errors.

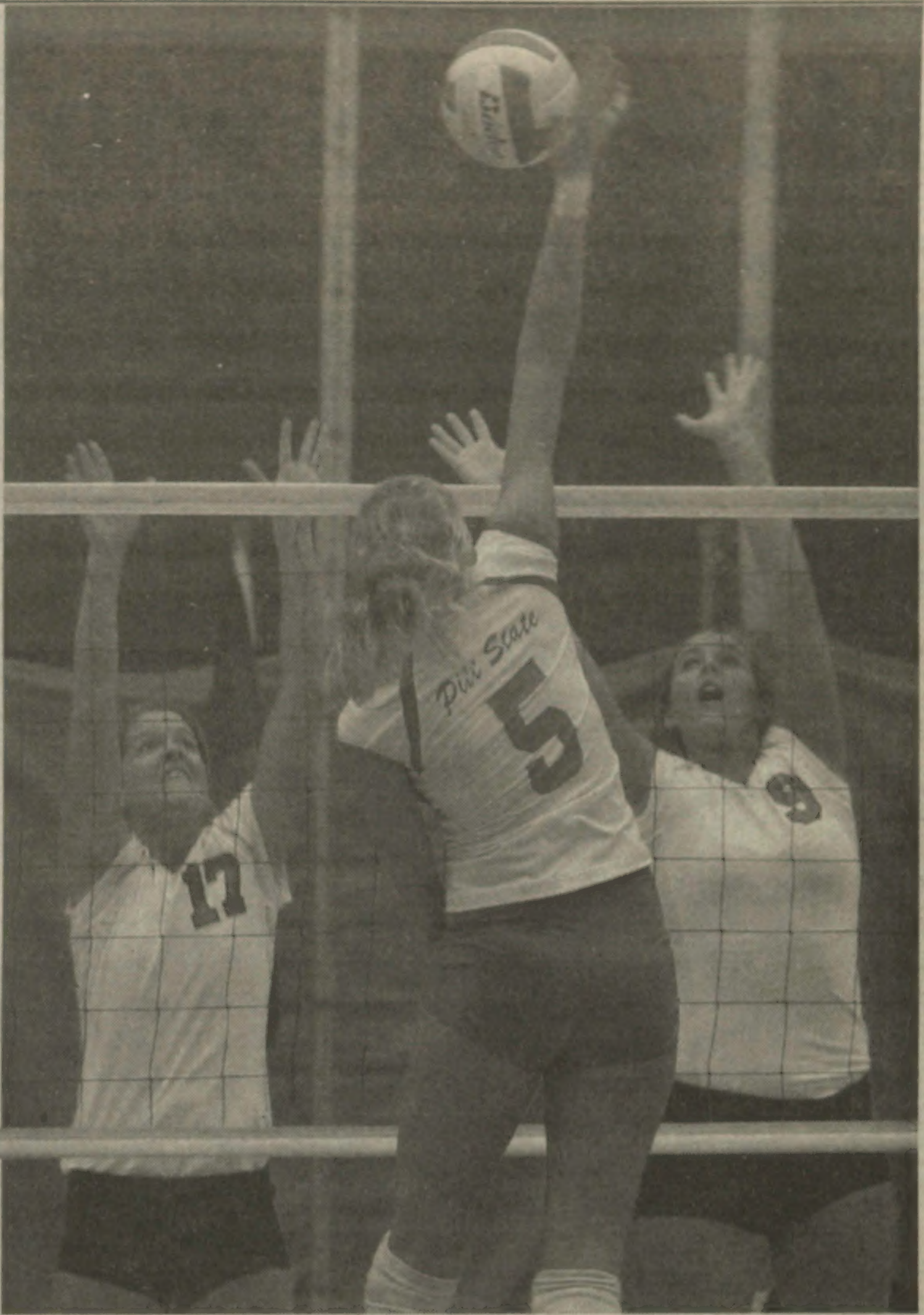
Tooley added 29 assists, nine digs, one service ace and one block.

Middle blocker Brittany Hanssen hit a career-high .500 with nine kills, while junior Sara Kampschnieder led UNO in kills with 12, while collecting nine digs; Uhing smashed a career-high 10 kills.

Freshman Lizzy Mach added eight kills on .389 hitting, while contributing a match-high three blocks.

UNO is now 6-7 overall and 2-1 in the MIAA. The Mavs travel next to Washburn on Wednesday for a 7 p.m. game.

Pittsburg State's Sammie Williams goes up above the block of UNO's Brittany Hanssen, left, and Kayla Uhing, right, during Friday's match in Pittsburg, Kan. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)



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Mavericks win on first MIAA road trip

UNO moves to 3-0 overall, 2-0 in conference after 40-21 victory over Missouri Southern last weekend



Quarterback Zach Miller races toward the end zone past Missouri Southern's Justin Cowper during Saturday's game. (ANDREA BARBE/THE GATEWAY)

MICHELLE BISHOP & ANDREA BARBE
PHOTO EDITOR CONTRIBUTOR

JOPLIN, Mo. — Despite three turnovers to a feisty Missouri Southern quad, UNO was able to tame the Lions to win their first MIAA road game 40-21.

The Mavs built on a 10-7 lead and racked up three touchdowns in the final 4:40 of the second quarter to ride a 30-7 advantage until Missouri Southern put a scare into the Mavs. The Lions forced consecutive turnovers in the third quarter and converted them into touchdowns.

The teams battled defensively during the first quarter as neither side got much going.

UNO took an early 3-0 first-quarter lead on a 43-yard field goal by Greg Zuerlein.

With Missouri Southern looking to counter, Steve Janda intercepted a pass on the second play of the second quarter to set up a six-

play, 44-yard scoring drive capped by Miller's 5-yard touchdown run, as UNO extended its lead to 10-0.

"It felt great, I needed one," Janda said. "I've dropped two this year so far, so I needed to get one under my belt."

The Lions took advantage of a UNO punt-return miscue when a fluttering ball bounced off the back of a UNO player. That gave Missouri Southern good field possession and the Lions converted when quarterback Adam Hinspeter found Mark Henderson for a two-yard touchdown pass to make it 10-7.

Just when the momentum appeared to sway in Missouri Southern's favor, Miller stepped up and launched a pass to Kelvin Nesbit for a 50-yard touchdown on the first play from scrimmage to put UNO back up by 10.

With 2:08 to go in the half, Miller darted his way through the Missouri Southern defense and shook a couple tackles on his way into the end zone for a 65-yard touchdown.

The Mavs weren't ready to head to the locker room quite yet.

After forcing the Lions to punt, UNO put together a string of plays and only needed 30 seconds to strike again.

Miller punched in his third touchdown of the game to make it 30-7 with 18 seconds to go. Zuerlein's extra point was blocked, ending a school record 61 consecutive conversions.

The Lions came out on the attack in the third quarter after scooping up UNO's fumbled kickoff return. After marching down field 35-yards, Hinspeter ran the ball in from the one to make it 30-14.

UNO turned the ball over on the next drive and Henderson hauled in a 5-yard pass from Hinspeter to claw the Lions within 9.

Missouri Southern turned all three Mav turnovers into touchdowns.

"We let a couple touchdowns slide on defense, but we just got to go back next week and make the proper



Jeff Souder flies over the defensive line and toward Missouri Southern quarterback Adam Hinspeter during the second quarter of Saturday's game. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

adjustments because we're playing Northwest next week," junior nose guard Zac Keller said. "Overall, we played pretty good."

The 5,516 in attendance at Hughes Stadium had hopes of an upset, but instead got a glimpse at how dominating the Mavericks can be.

UNO put a halt to the Missouri Southern momentum in the fourth quarter.

"I just didn't have a feel for this one going in," head coach Pat Behrns said. "Every time I kind of get worried about them and think we're not doing well, they prove me wrong."

Zuerlein nailed his second field goal of the game from 31 yards to make it 33-21. Miller made it look easy once again by finding Nesbit for a 30-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter, making it 40-21.

Nesbit made just two catches in the game, but both resulted in touchdowns.

"This was a big win for us," Behrns said. "We needed this win to keep pace and to see we can do it on the road against a good defense. I was very pleased."

Miller, the conference leader in total offense and pass efficiency rating, ran for a career-best 195 yards on 16 carries and finished the night with 143 yards through the air as he assisted on all five UNO touchdowns.

"I don't want to demean an opponent, but he looked like a man amongst boys out there," Behrns said. "He looked awful good. They had a difficult time tackling him."

Miller also had a 47-yard touchdown run and a two-yard touchdown pass called back by penalties.

Even though Miller provided the spark the Mavs needed, he was quick to share the accolades.

"I got 10 other guys on the field working; we just executed well as the offense," Miller said.

Tailback Brian McNeill collected 126 yards



Missouri Southern's Mark Henderson goes up for a catch as Reed Taylor defends in Saturday's game. Henderson wasn't able to hold onto the ball. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)



Brian McNeill leaps past Missouri Southern's Cordier Collier during the fourth quarter of Saturday's game in Joplin, Mo. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

on 25 rushes as UNO rolled up 385 rushing yards and finished with 528 total yards.

The No. 5 ranked Mavs have scored at least 40 points in all three games this season.

UNO improves to 3-0 and 2-0 in the MIAA and now face rival Northwest Missouri State on Saturday. Kick-off time has been moved up to 1:30 p.m. at Caniglia Field.



Keith Eloi fights off Missouri Southern's Justin Cowper during the second quarter of Saturday's game in Joplin, Mo. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Theta Chi honors Jeff Detweiler

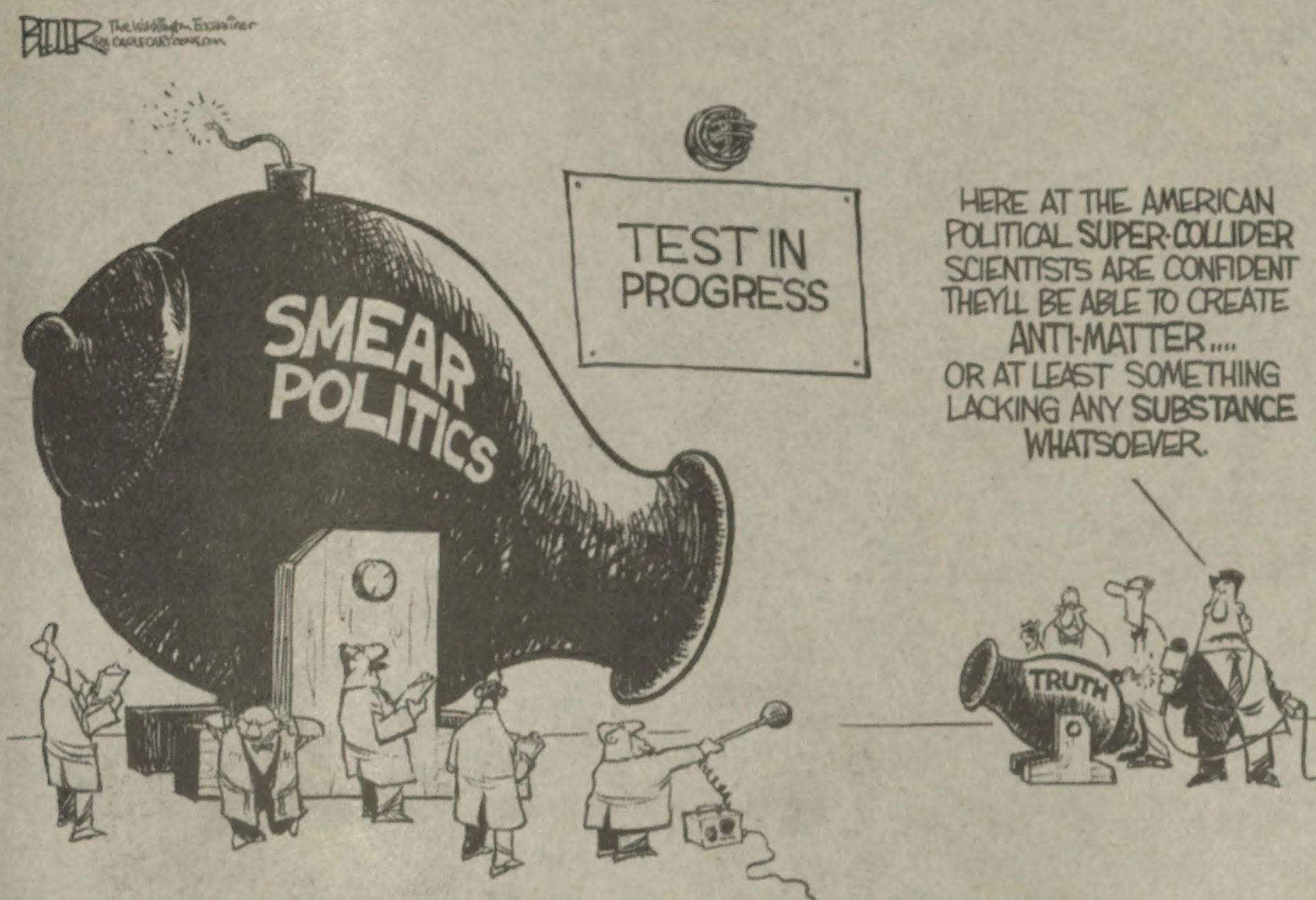
Dear Editor:

When Theta Chi takes to the field for their first flag football game this intramural season, each member of the team will wear sports tape on their arm with "Jeff" written on it, in honor of Jeff Detweiler.

Jeff died on Sept. 16 after running a red light on his motorcycle and striking a Chevy Blazer.

Jeff was not a Theta Chi, but he had previously been a roommate with two Theta Chi's only a block from where the accident occurred. Jeff also played on the Theta Chi flag football team last year, helping our small chapter fill the 16-man roster.

Sincerely,
Thomas Guttermann
Junior, Broadcasting/Public Relations



Shock value: happy anniversary, Tasergate, from UF students

EDITORIAL FROM
INDEPENDENT FLORIDA ALLIGATOR

(UWIRE) — Admittedly, we don't have the best memories.

We're not sure when, why or how it happened, but for some reason, we just can't seem to remember names or dates as well as we used to. Second-tier holidays, distant relatives' birthdays, close relatives' birthdays, anniversaries — you name it. They all manage to slip our minds.

That's why we're surprised that we have such an uncanny ability to recall annoying little details like movie quotes, the name of Van Halen's third lead singer (Gary Cherone) and other events that have no redeeming social value.

So we aren't shocked that we remembered today is the one-year anniversary of the University of Florida police department's manhandling and zapping an overzealous instigator named Andrew Meyer at Sen. John Kerry's speech in the University Auditorium.

The media's coverage of "Tasergate" was exhaustive to the point of nausea.

We really didn't need or want to see some brat howling about secret societies five million times. Our firsthand account in the auditorium was beyond sufficient.

Meyer's temper tantrum and subsequent Taser-ing embarrassed UF, UPD and — hopefully — him, too.

The incident rallied a horde of protesters who marched over to the UPD station to wave cheap signs attempting to corral the First Amendment into a sordid affair. Was anyone worried about Meyer's safety? Or were they just chomping at the bit because it had been a while since their last good, old-fashioned protest?

We're advocates of standing your ground and fighting the power, but it doesn't make

much sense when your claims lack any real merit.

Somebody has to fight the good fight, we guess, but we'd rather have a legitimate argument before committing ourselves to the hoarse voices and heat exhaustion that would result from protesting in front of a police station all day.

We've certainly had enough of those damn T-shirts, too.

"Don't Tase me, bro" may be the dumbest line we've ever heard, and we've seen "Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story."

Meyer had actually done research before coming to Kerry's speech, but that certainly doesn't matter now.

No one will remember whether he eloquently presented his questions or successfully stumped Kerry because, rather than wearing his big-boy pants to the forum, Meyer decide to spew a line that sounds like it got cut from the script of a Pauly Shore movie.

The best thing to come from the whole "Tasergate" circus was the response from the "The Daily Show."

Host Jon Stewart referred to the Meyer's Taser-ing as an "unfortunate combination of police overreaction and ... student douchebaggery."

If you had forgotten about the most spot-on six syllables seen by the English language last year, then let them sink in.

We're glad to help refresh your memory. No real word could've expressed our feelings as accurately, so we applaud Stewart and his writers for going out on a limb to create a word powerful enough to describe the whole situation.

On behalf of UF, we would like to apologize to the rest of the nation for letting one of our fellow Gators act like such a tool and dominate YouTube for the last part of 2007.

Newspaper slump also felt by many student publications

COMMENTARY BY
DAVID LEI
DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN

(UWIRE) — Almost four weeks ago, The Daily Californian, the independent student newspaper at UC Berkeley, announced that it would suspend its Wednesday print edition. The Daily Orange, the paper at Syracuse, announced days later it would do the same for its Friday edition.

Many in college journalism — myself included — hoped that student papers would remain largely unaffected by the turmoil in news media. But, apparently, when newsprint goes up 30 percent (again), everyone feels it.

These events have serious implications for all of us. Part of the problem is that traditional advertising has taken a sharp turn for the worse both nationally and locally.

The other, more significant issue is the rapidly changing patterns of news consumption driven by our generation. Over the past months, these trends have conspired

to shake giants such as The New York Times.

And slowly but surely, they're shaking up independent student newspapers. The reality: Our generation didn't grow up with newspapers, and we don't have a strong attachment to them.

It's unfortunate. The Drudges, Huffingtons and other bloggers of the future could never measure up to the Woodward and Bernsteins.

And independent student newspapers have a humble but proud tradition of voicing campus opinion and holding administrations accountable.

Despite some recent troubles, I'm confident that student newspapers will keep this spirit alive. Like all of our peers, we're doing what's possible to keep students picking up the paper while encouraging them to visit our Web site.

And don't worry — you'll definitely find a new copy of our paper in the rackboxes tomorrow.

Obama flip-flops on ROTC

COMMENTARY BY
HANNAH JOHNS
COLUMBIA DAILY SPECTATOR

(UWIRE) — In the spring of 2007, I attended a fireside chat at the home of Columbia University President Lee Bollinger. With the Minutemen controversy finally at bay and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's visit yet to come, this conversation with Bollinger was pretty tame.

In this discussion of financial aid reform and Columbia's future as a global university, the only comment that directly challenged Bollinger or the University centered on the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

After a student from a military family expressed his discontent with the exclusion of ROTC from Columbia's campus, President Bollinger delivered a diplomatic response that laid the question to rest.

Speaking of his time at both the University of Michigan and Columbia, Bollinger explained that the ROTC's stance on homosexuality in the military was not in accordance with either University's policy on discrimination.

On Sept. 11, I was alarmed to hear Barack Obama denounce Columbia University's stance on this very issue.

Echoing Republican presidential candidate John McCain, he said of Columbia's policy on the ROTC: "I recognize that there are students here who have differences in terms of military policy, but the notion that young people here at Columbia aren't offered a choice or an option in participating in military service is a mistake."

Such a statement not only undermines the right of institutions like Columbia to take a stance against discrimination, but also challenges Obama's previous statements about "don't ask, don't tell."

Although the Supreme Court has ruled in its favor five times, the ROTC's "don't ask, don't tell" policy certainly violates Columbia's discrimination policy. As outlined in Columbia Equal Employment Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policies, the University does not discriminate along the lines of "gender (including gender identity and expression)" or "sexual orientation."

Contrary to Obama's statement, Columbia has an ethical obligation to use

its institutional weight to speak against discrimination.

Furthermore, Columbia's stance on the ROTC's discriminatory policy does not limit its own students' free speech or choice in the matter, as Obama implied. As the University's non-discrimination act specifies, "Prohibitions against discrimination and harassment do not extend to statements or written materials that are germane to classroom subject matter." This statement demonstrates the University's support for free speech on such controversial issues as the inclusion of ROTC from campus.

More importantly, Columbia students can still participate in the ROTC at Fordham University or Manhattan College. Columbia students who want to participate in ROTC or express their opinions on the subject are certainly not denied the choice to do so.

Obama's statement not only incorrectly characterizes the institution's attitude towards the ROTC, but also undermines what he has previously said on the military's policy.

On the campaign trail, Obama has clearly advocated the overturn of this policy, along with a variety of other discriminatory employment policies.

If he fully intends to overturn this policy in Washington, why should he be critical of a private university's efforts to make a similar statement? It seems to me that, despite pledges to suspend campaigning on Sept. 11, Obama continued politicking.

Even more alarming than Obama's statement was the silence of Columbia students on the matter. As noted in the New York Times coverage of the event, students responded disproportionately to McCain's and Obama's similar statements.

Supporting a candidate does not have to mean turning a blind eye to his errors. In fact, supporters should hold Obama accountable for misstatements and challenge him to better represent the issues that he believes in.

On issues such as the ROTC, Obama supporters owe it to their candidate and themselves to engage in a more critical dialogue about his inconsistencies. If Democrats do not hold him accountable, they can rest assured that the media and the Republicans will.

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